

The European Agenda of
the Ministry of Administration and Interior

**I. THE SITUATION OF THE MINISTRY OF ADMINISTRATION AND INTERIOR
AT THE BEGINNING OF 2005**

Romania concluded negotiations in view of its accession to the European Union with a *safeguard clause*, which provides that the Council, having a qualified majority and based on a recommendation made by the Commission, can decide to postpone Romania's accession with one year, until January 1, 2008, if there are major shortcomings in the process of fulfilling one or more commitments or requirements referring to 4 specific aspects relating to the "Competing" Chapter or to 7 aspects of the "Justice and Home Affairs" Chapter.

As regards the Justice and Home Affairs, the 7 aspects referred to are the following:

1. Applying the Schengen Action Plan without any delay;
2. Achieving a high level of control and surveillance at the future outer border of the European Union;
3. Developing and applying an Action Plan and an updated integrated Strategy for reforming the judicial sector;
4. Accelerating the fight against high-level corruption;
5. Developing an independent audit regarding the results and the impact of the current National Anti-corruption Strategy, as well as revising the penal procedure up to the end of the year 2005;
6. Passing a clear legal framework regarding the attributions of the Gendarmerie and Police and their co-operation, up to March 2005;
7. Developing and applying a coherent multi-annual strategy for countering organized crime.

The following tasks are within the direct responsibility of the Ministry of Administration and Interior: *applying the Schengen Action Plan without any delay; achieving a high level of control and surveillance at the future outer border of the European Union; passing a clear legal framework regarding the attributions of the gendarmerie and police and their co-operation, up to March 2005.* The development and application of a coherent multi-annual strategy for countering organized crime is within the common responsibility of the Ministry of Administration and Interior and the Ministry of Justice.

At the same time, the Ministry of Administration and Interior has the role of an integrating ministry for the whole "Justice and Home Affairs" Chapter.

II. A BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE M.A.I. IN 2005

- Ø MAI rigorously respected the whole accession roadmap this year. The 265 measures taken in the internal affairs field and the 58 measures regarding the public administration segment, whose deadline was January-November, were entirely fulfilled, and besides, a series of measures scheduled for December were taken in advance. At the same time, MAI managed to take all the measures scheduled for last years that the Ministry was behind with (15 this kind of measures were scheduled for last year and not adopted).
- Ø With a view to accomplishing a high level of border control and surveillance, the contract with EADS was renegotiated, major quantitative and qualitative advantages being gained; at the same time, the Romanian concept of border securing was finalized and agreed on by the European Commission.
- Ø After a 2-year lingering, the framework of the co-operation between gendarmerie and police was realized and implemented, with a view to ensuring public order and safety.
- Ø The calendar regarding the employment within the police, border police and gendarmerie is rigorously respected, and up to next summer at the latest the employment programme within the Border Police General Inspectorate has to be finished, so as to ensure the complete filling in of the vacancies at the level of the future outer border of Romania. A total of 14,200 vacancies has been or are going to be filled in up to the end of the year, in order to cover the personnel shortage within the public order and safety structures in the Ministry of Administration and Interior.
- Ø There were either set up or made operational the de-concentrated services for issuing passports, driving licenses and registration of vehicles, and in many counties the time allotted to documents' issuing reduced significantly. In Bihor, Bistrita or Cluj the time necessary for issuing a passport diminished to a few hours.
- Ø There was drawn up and debated with the associations of local authorities, as well as with the civil society, the package of law drafts regarding public local authorities, which in short time is going to be forwarded to Parliament.
- Ø The Romanian Police obtained remarkable results regarding the major criminality. There were drawn up documents of fact-ascertaining and penal inquiry in over 4,700 penal files, regarding 8,400 crimes of major criminality, in which 7,400 persons were involved. For illegal trafficking in drugs and precursors about 2,000 people are investigated, and 360 persons are investigated for larceny, whose losses amount to more than 500,000 euros in each case.
- Ø There were identified over 5,500 organized crime-related actions. 3,758 persons were charged with different this kind of crimes, 470 persons being taken in temporary custody (a 29% increase compared to last year). There were identified 831 criminal groups and networks, out of them 529 having been dismantled.
- Ø Over 5,500 persons are being investigated for corruption-related actions in a number of 2,240 penal files, to which were reached the solution of declining the competence in favour of the prosecuting offices; out of these, 152 files were forwarded to the National Anti-corruption Prosecutor's Office (two times as more files as last year). There were notified over 7,700 corruption cases (out of which 765 forwarded to NAPO), an increase by 131% compared to 2004).
- Ø From the beginning of the year, there have been confiscated over 900 kilogram drugs, out of which 400 kilogram high-risk drugs, and have been deterred 167 criminal groups that carried out drugs- and precursors-related criminal activities.
- Ø The General Anti-Corruption Directorate within MAI was set up and made operational for helping fight against internal corruption, and its activity began to have noticeable results.

Over the first 9 months of 2005, MAI forwarded 2,455 notifications towards the Prosecutor's Office, all regarding different illegal deeds committed by the employers within various MAI structures, out of which 721 refer to corruption.

III. THE PROGRESSES RECORDED

DURING 2005

A/ As regards the **APPLICATION OF THE SCHNEGEN ACTION PLAN**, this was revised and approved by the Romanian Government on the 1 June 2005. Its implementation is developing according to the roadmap established.

Among the most important tasks carried out in the Plan application, we mention the following ones:

- Signing with Hungary the Treaty regarding the state border regime, mutual co-operation and support in the border-related domain, on the 20 October 2005.
- Passing the Law No. 306/25.10.2005 regarding the approval of GEO No. 113/2005 for amending and supplementing of GEO No. 194/2002 concerning the aliens' regime in Romania.
- Opening the General Consulate from Vârșeț.
- Setting up the "Implementation of the Schengen IT System" Service, at the level of the Communications and IT Directorate from MAI.

Other measures relevant to the enforcement of the updated Schengen Action Plan are presented below.

B/ The actions meant to **RAISE THE LEVEL OF BORDER CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE AT THE FUTURE OUTER BORDERS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION** will end on the 1 November 2006, two months before the deadline first established.

The text of the clause says: "Accelerating significantly the efforts made for modernizing the equipment and infrastructure at the green and blue border, and at the cross-border points, as well as keeping on enhancing the capacity of the risk analysis, for ensuring a high level of border control and surveillance at the future outer borders of the European Union. This has to be reflected in a multi-annual investment plan, drawn up until March 2005, which has to allow the Commission to evaluate on a yearly basis, the progresses achieved by Romania until its accession to the Schengen area. Moreover, Romania has to significantly speed up the recruiting of the 4,438 border agents and officers, and to ensure the filling of the vacancies at the level of the border to Ukraine, Moldova, the Black Sea side will be carried out in a percent close to 100%, up to the accession date. At the same time, Romania has to implement all the necessary measures for countering effectively illegal migration, even by enhancing the co-operation with the third countries."

There were drawn up and passed the National Strategy for Integrated Management of the State Frontier in 2005-2009 with its Annexes and the Report for Implementation in 2004 of the National Strategy for Integrated Management of the Romanian State Frontier for 2004-2006.

The integrated system of surveillance of the Romanian border will include four filters and nine sub-systems, as follows:

I. The first filter is represented the **operations developed in other countries**, through the internal affairs attachés, liaison officers and through co-operating with different international institutions.ⁱ

II. The second filter is represented **the contact points set up within activities of co-operation with the neighbouring countries and international co-operation**.

III. The third filter is **the border itself**. Border control and surveillance will be carried out by means of nine sub-systems:

1. Fix communications sub-system
 2. Mobile communications sub-system
 3. IT sub-system
 4. Control sub-system
 5. Surveillance sub-system for the Black Sea (SCOMAR)
 6. Infrastructure
 7. Naval mobility sub-system
 8. Terrestrial mobility sub-system
 9. Human resources sub-system
- (a detailed presentation in annexe).

IV. The fourth filter is represented by the **activities developed in the national territory** for preventing illegal migration and cross-border criminal phenomenon.

In March 2005, a first version of the ***Multi-annual Investition Plan regarding the infrastructure and the equipment designated to the border control and surveillance*** was drawn up and forwarded to the European Commission. The document will be revised annually, and considering the renegotiation of the contract with EADS Company.

In October 2005 the Concept for Implementation of the Integrated Border Security System was passed. The monitoring report of Romania appreciates that this document proves the fact that an important progress was achieved in the outlining of a clear strategic view of the steps which have to be taken up to both Romania's EU accession and the lifting of the internal borders.

On the 9 November 2005, the Ministry of Administration and Interior concluded the ***negotiations of the contract regarding the border securing with the European concern EADS***, the passing of the final decision concerning this contract being considered by the European Commission, in its latest monitoring report, a high priority issue.

Through the Common Position issued in December 2004, the European Union invited Romania to provide all the necessary information regarding the content of the contract signed by Romania with EADS in 2004 concerning the Romanian border modernising and especially on those actions that would be financed through this contract and which are directly related to our country's preparations for Schengen accession. In line with this, the European Union also invited Romania to revise its various strategies in compliance with the above-mentioned parts of the contract, for ensuring a total

coherence between these documents, and for keeping on increasing the managerial capacity of the border police, which should conduct a more integrated border management.

In his letter addressed to the Romanian Government, Fabrizio Barbaso, General Director for the European Union Enlargement, expressed his concern regarding the possible overlaps that could exist between the financial support that the Commission was going to pass regarding the border management for the following three years, and the contract with EADS, and showed that getting rid of this kind of overlaps represents a prerequisite for making use of the funds allotted. In another letter, Onno Simons, deputy Head of the European Commission Delegation in Romania, said that these overlaps for 2002 PHARE exercise could lead to Romania's taking over of the whole financing, so that Romania should return all the funds already paid for the contract; these aspects were also referred to in a letter by Jonathan Scheele, the Head of the European Commission Delegation in Europe.

The main new elements of the contract signed after the renegotiations are as follows:

- The new form of the contract ensures *the removing of all the overlaps* or the interferences with the projects financed through other funds (PHARE), which will allow Romania to access about 450 million euros in view of modernising its border;
- A new article provides the obligation of the EADS to create and implement the mobile communications sub-system from within the system for *TETRA standard technology, which is utilised in the EU Member-States*;
- The main purpose of the contract with EADS, that will be developing up to 2009, was amended and supplemented, being realised a *technical project of the Surveillance Integrated System for the State Frontier of Romania* (SISF);
- The article regarding the sub-contractors was revised and supplemented, being introduced provisions which aim at *ensuring transparency regarding the procedures of goods and services acquisition*;
- The contract signed between the Ministry of Administration and Interior and EADS will allow Romania to accomplish, within the established programme (in two phases, the first by the end of 2006 and the second, by 2009), the commitments assumed with a view to its accession to the European Union relating to border securing.
- *The cost of the contract was cut to 524.5 million euros*, as compared to 650 million euros provided by the initial contract, following the removing of the overlaps with the EU-financed projects; some additional infrastructure objectives, such as a new headquarters for the Border Police General Inspectorate, were also included.

At the same time, in 2005 were continued the operations of equipment acquirement and of modernisation of the Border Police premises.

- **communications:** there was finalised the pilot project regarding voice-data fix communications for the counties of Iasi, Vaslui, Galati and was launched the auction procedure for extending the system in Duceava and Botosani
- **naval mobility:** 48 boats and vassels; at the same time, there was signed the contract with the German Federal Minsitry of Interior which allows the acquisition of 3 patrol and surveillance vassels project P – 157;
- **terrestrial mobility:** 320 vehivles for operational activities

The terrains necessary for realising the SCOMAR system were taken over from the National Defence Ministry.

In 2005 there was finalised the building of the terminal for passengers in Constanta Harbour and was approved the feasibility study for the Project regarding *the separation of passengers' flows* (according to the Schengen requirements) in the International Airport Constanta.

A successful action of this year is represented by the approval by the European Commission of the multi-annual PHARE programme 2005-2006 "Strengthening the border control and management", which will allow the development of the institutional capacity for implementing the European Union acquis in the border management and control field. The sum of money proposed to be used through the multi-annual PHARE programme 2005-2006 for the projects' implementation amounts to 163,511,700 euros as a total budget.

In order to fully fill in the vacancies within the Border Police General Inspectorate at the outer border to Ukraine, Republic of Moldova and the Black Sea, the Ministry of Administration and Interior this year raised the personnel of the Border Police by 4,252 cadres (1,439 from external source, 336 from the specific educational institutions and 2,477 by professionalisation). In 2006 1,658 vacancies will be filled in by employing the specialised university graduates and personnel from external sources, while continuing the process of professionalisation, so that *the employment programme within the Border Police required by the European Commission could end by the 1 June 2006, six months before the initial deadline*.

In 2007 within the BPGI will also be employed 1,100 university graduates from the schools of the Ministry of Administration and Interior.

This year, in order to keep on ensuring a proper number of cadres for the Border Police and for the other arms of the Ministry as well, *the number of the examination seats in the educational institutions has increased by 3,100 at the level of the Police and the Border Police*; besides, an additional examination session has been organised. At the same time, the police agents' and border police agents' training period reduced from 24 months to 18 months, which will allow, together with the above-mentioned increase in the number of examination seats, the number of trained effectives over a same period of time to doubleⁱⁱ.

Romania has achieved, over the same period of time, important progresses regarding the **COUNTERING OF ILLEGAL MIGRATION AND THE TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS**.

On the 16 May 2005, in Warsaw, Romania signed the European Council Convention concerning the prevention of the trafficking in human beings; currently it is undergoing the ratification procedures.

Beginning with January 2005, was enforced an Action Plan for increasing and making more effective the actions meant to counter illegal migration and cross-border crime.

The punishment applied for minor-related crimes was hardened, by the amending and supplementing of the legislation regarding prevention and countering of the human beings trafficking.

There was issued the Ordinance of the Ministry of Administration and Interior No.820/2005, amended and supplemented subsequently by OMAI 900/2005, which regulates the requirements that have to be met when Romanian citizens want to leave the country, in order to enter the Schengen States. This normative act aimed at deterring of illegal migration, as well as the criminal deeds carried out by the Romanians abroad.

Within the Border Police there was set up the Directorate for Countering Illegal Migration. Reflex Project Romania meant to help counter illegal migration, was extended at the level of all the 15 Zonal Centres.

The activity of *development of the contact-points networks in view of cross-border co-operation* continued by the setting up of three new units in the following localities: Siret-Porumbnoe (at the border to Ukraine), Portile de Fier (at the border to Serbia) și Artand - Bors (at the border to Hungary).

At the same time, after the events recorded at the beginning of March at the French-Spanish border, since April there *two teams of border police officers have been deployed at the French-Spanish border and, respectively, Hungarian-Austrian border.*

All these measures led to significant operational results and have already materialized in *a decrease in the number of the illegal deeds committed at the level of the Romanian borders.*

There increased both the number of the leaving attempts that were stopped (626 compared to the 487 in 2004) and the number of the guiding activities (93 compared to 66 in 2004). Cases of illegal crossing of the border reduced to 362 in 2005, compared to 604 in 2004.

The Border Police took legal action against 1,558,483 Romanian citizens, (compared to 1,591,347 cases in 2004). Thus, *1,552,085 Romanian citizens were not permitted to leave the country (compared to 1,591,347 citizens in 2004)*, the most important reason being *the lack of capacity to support themselves (866,029 cases, compared to 1,102,668 in 2004)*. Other reasons were as follows: they did not have return ticket (321,963 cases, compared to 74,679 in 2004), medical insurance (278,626 cases, compared to 181,842 in 2004). One can notice a significant decrease in the number of the Romanian citizens who were not permitted to leave the country for other reasons (including those suspected of having committed illegal deeds in Schengen area), from 209,570 persons in 2004 to only 27,783 in 2005.

At the green border, in 2005, 263 Romanian citizens tried to fraudulently cross the border (179 when leaving and 84 when entering the country), compared to 411 - last year (298 when leaving and 113 when entering).

In the first 11 months of 2005, legal action (including drawing up of penal files for different criminal deeds) was also taken against *23,647 returned Romanian citizens, this number representing a 3.4% increase compared to the same period of 2004* (22,861 returned Romanian citizens); these persons were lifted the right to use their passports for a period of 1 to 5 years.

Over the same period of time, the Border Police took legal action against 53,725 foreign citizens. Thus, at the level of the border crossing points, *47,928 foreign citizens were not allowed to enter Romania*, as compared to 67,068 in 2004. Most of the foreign citizens who were not allowed to enter had customs-related problems (23,093), inadequate travel documents (4,850) or did not have means of supporting themselves (4,126). By category of citizens, the citizens from the Republic of Moldova, 30,180 more than in 2004 (17,404), and those from Ukraine, 6,445 more than in 2004 (6,755) are in the greatest number.

A number of 4,927 foreign citizens were not allowed to leave the country for different reasons such as deficiencies in their travel documents (610), false or forged passports/visas (126), and

infringement of the customs regime (1,532). At the level of the green border, a number of 694 foreign citizens tried to fraudulently cross the border (560 tried to enter and 134 tried to leave the country), as compared to 2004 when there was recorded a number of 411 this kind of citizens (211 who tried to enter and 205 to leave Romania).

The Border Police identified **33 illegal migration networks**, in which 219 people were involved; there were identified 100 guides/ transporters (69 Romanian and 31 foreign citizens). The main origin countries of these persons who illegally acted at the level of the Romanian borders (when both entering or leaving the country) are the following ones: India, Bangladesh, Irak, Pakistan, Turkey, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Liberia, Morocco, Algeria, Cote d'Ivoire, the Russian Federation, China, Sudan, Congo, Nigeria, Chechenia, Venezuela, Serbia etc.

At the same time, there were found **41 human trafficking networks** in which 133 persons were involved. There were also taken in custody 232 people (229 Romanian and 3 foreign citizens) charged with trafficking in human beings, 116 women subject to procurement in view of prostitution, and 22 children.

661 causes regarding trafficking in human beings were forwarded to the Prosecutor's Office, in which 1,331 suspects and 2,216 victims were involved; as regards the trafficking in migrants, 2,681 criminal deeds were identified.

In the period January – October 2005, there were issued 5,027 orders of territory leaving; 358 foreign citizens were taken in public custody in view of their returning; there were given 1,024 orders of entering confinement for the foreign citizens who resided illegally, and 18 - for the foreign citizens who were declared as undesirable in the Romanian territory.

C/ SPEEDING UP THE FIGHT AGAINST HIGH-LEVEL CORRUPTION. The National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2005-2007 was drawn up with a view to preventing and countering the systemic corruption, being set the action priorities, the risk factors and the system vulnerabilities, especially in the administrative and legal field.

The **Anti-Corruption General Directorate** was set up, this being the only body specialized in preventing and combating the internal corruption at the level of the MAI's personnel. All the employers of this structure have special juridical police skills.

At the same time, there were passed the following normative acts: Law No. 161/2005 regarding the setting of some measures for preventing and combating corruption within MAI, the Government Decision No. 991/2005 regarding the approval of the New Code of the Police Officer's Ethics and Deontology. The Action Plan for fighting corruption within the Romanian Police in 2005-2007 was updated, and the Order of the Ministry of Administration and Interior No. 588/2005 regarding "The Guide for the Police Officer's Career" was issued.

Over the first nine months of this year, **the Ministry of Administration and Interior forwarded 2,455 notes regarding to the activity of some employees within all the ministry's sectors to the General Prosecutor's Office. Out of these notes, 721 regard corruption deeds, and 1,734 refer to different kinds of infringement of the professional ethics.** From the beginning of this year, 1,480 employees within MAI, out of whom 144 officers, have been sanctioned.

As regards the workers within ***the Romanian Police***, there were started the proceedings against 20 persons, out of whom 12 are being investigated at liberty, 4 - under temporary arrest, and 4 other persons became reservists or ceased their employment relations during investigation.

At the level of ***the Border Police***, there were accomplished 6,531 under-cover actions, integrity tests and unexpected controls in view of combating corruption within the MAI personnel; it also forwarded to prosecutors a number of 20 files regarding the corruption-related deeds of 39 border police officers.

As regards the countering of corruption, in 2005 the Romanian Police obtained the following results:

- 5,510 persons are being investigated in a number of 2,240 penal files, finalised with the proposal of forwarding them to the province of the prosecutor's offices; out of these files, 152 were forwarded to the National Anti-Corruption Directorate (a 105.4% increase compared to 2004).
- Identification of 7,707 criminal deeds (out of which 765 declined in favour of the NACD, a 131% increase compared to 2004), as follows: 2,200 bribery cases, 2,712 attempts to bribe, 956 attempts to profit from one's position, 146 cases of accepting undeserved goods or services, 1,653 other corruption-related deeds provided by Law No.78/2000).
- There were recorded 1,653 notifications regarding important crimes provided by Law No. 78/2000. Legal action was taken in 71 cases of criminal deeds committed against the financial interests of the European Community.

The equivalent value of the sums of money and the material goods, which were subject to the corruption, acts amounts to 1,193,412.2 million ROL, that is 33,150,333 euros.

D/ PASSING A CLEAR LEGAL FRAMEWORK REGARDING THE ATTRIBUTIONS OF THE GENDARMERIE AND POLICE AND THEIR CO-OPERATION, UP TO MARCH 2005.

By the Government Decision No.196/2005, regarding the approval of the ***“MAI strategy of achieving public order and safety, for increasing the citizen's safety and prevention of street criminal phenomenon”***, the aspects concerning the attributions and competences of the two institutions were made clear, namely: ***the Romanian Police*** maintains the public order and safety at national level, and ***the Romanian Gendarmerie*** ensures and restores the public order and safety at national level, ensures guard and protection for the strategical sites and buildings, or for those which are highly important to the state activity; it also ensures the protection of the transportation for special or important values, ensures required guard in courts and executes missions of keeping the public order in certain territorial zones (mountain and seaside resorts).

E/ DEVELOPING AND APPLYING A COHERENT MULTI-ANNUAL STRATEGY FOR COUNTERING ORGANIZED CRIME.

There were identified 5,582 deeds relating to organised crime. 3,758 persons indicted, 470 (29%) being taken in temporary custody, 831 criminal groups and networks were found, out of which 529 were dismantled.

As regards the **COUNTERING OF DRUGS TRAFFICKING AND CONSUMPTION**, Romania has taken important steps regarding all the 3 aspects related to the fight against drugs, namely the reducing of drugs request, reducing of drugs trafficking, and assistance of drugs trafficking victims. The Anti-Drugs National Strategy 2005-2012, and its additional Action Plan were passed; the regulation concerning the legal regime of the precursors used for producing the illegal drugs was amended and supplemented.

The National Drug Resources Centre was set up and the Common work methodology regarding drugs seizure was drawn up.

Romania became full-member of the Co-operation group for countering illegal drugs trafficking and consumption (Pompidou Group) within the European Council.

By Government Decision, MARA Programme (Marea Alianță Română Antidrog - the Great Romanian Anti-Drugs Alliance) was approved.

The laboratory of physical-chemical analyses of drugs from Iasi was made functional, and the General Directorate for Countering Organised Crime and Drugs within the Romanian Police General Directorate was reorganized.

At the national level, between January 1 and October 26, 2005 a total quantity of **906 kg drugs was seized (402 kg high-risk drugs and 504 kg risk drugs)**.

At the same time, there were seized quantities of over 2,493 kg and 636 l precursors that could have been used to illegally produce stupefying substances.

Over the same period of time, **there were identified 2,118 drugs-trafficking crimes**, 1,740 persons being investigated, out of whom – 512 under temporary arrest (a 23.37% increase compared to the first 9 months of 2004).

As a result of the activity carried out, **167 criminal groups involved in drugs/precursors trafficking and consumption were dismantled**.

IV. ROMANIAN POLICE REFORM

à Fewer policemen in offices and more policemen in the streets.

At the central level:

The central apparatus of the Romanian Police General Inspectorate was organised around **three main components**: the General Directorate of Police for Public Safety, General Directorate for Crimes Investigating and the General Directorate for Countering Organised Crime. In this way, the overlaps that caused various deficiencies at the level of the Police activity were removed.

The number of **the positions within the central apparatus of the RPGI was reduced** by approximately 900 (from about 2,400 to fewer than 1,500).

The leading positions decreased by approximately 40%, from about 230 to 140.

Within the bodies in charge of countering organized crime, **the number of the effectives increased by 77.73%**.

In order to increase the number of the police officers who take action in the streets, over the first 11 months, 5,224 vacancies within the Romanian Police were filled in.

The number of the functions within the operative bodies reduced from 6,770 to 6,358, this representing a 6% decrease.

At the territorial level, there were revised the payrolls of the county police inspectorates, considering the analytical tri-faceted system: population-policeman-criminality volume. There were identified 129 leading position at the territorial level which will be taken out of the new payrolls, as follows: 23 deputy heads of the County Inspectorates; 19 deputy heads of the municipal police and 87 chief of different offices and departments.

In view of strengthening the public order at the Eastern border of Romania – which soon will become the outer border of the European Union – those positions that were more than the county's necessities were transferred to the Eastern counties, which recorded a shortage of this kind of positions.

à Fair and transparent contests, based on competence

The positions of inspector-in-chief and director were occupied only by contests or exams, in this way a real competition being ensured. There were 191 candidates for 66 positions of inspector-in-chief/deputy inspector-in-chief at the level of the territorial units, and of directors/ deputy directors from the central apparatus of the RPGI.

For the organized contests, there were introduced a test involving the knowledge of a widespread foreign language, as well as a test involving the candidate's skills of using a PC.

à The average age of the police officers in leading positions reduced by 18 months.

Currently, *the average age of the officers holding leading positions* is 43 years and 9 months. There was recorded a decrease in it as compared to the beginning of 2005, when the average age was 45 years and 3 months.

Now, the police officers' average age is 35 years and 9 months. By category of personnel, officers' average age is 37 years and 6 months, and agents' - 35 years and 4 months.

à 34% of the agents employed from external sources have academic studies.

Following an increased exigency during the examinations, as well as during the selection process, **34% of the agents employed from external sources this year have academic studies.**

à The number of the police women increased.

Of the agents employed from external sources this, year 27% are women. Presently, 394 policewomen act as agents in mix squads in urban zones, and 103 were distributed at the level of the communal police stations.

In fact, the increased number of the women in the police forces was encouraged by the educational system. This year, 900 admission seats for women only were subject to the admission exam in the educational institutions of initial training.

à The unique number for the penal files was introduced

The penal file receives the unique number from the prosecutor's office, this concept avoiding the lingering of the investigations or the wrongful statistical reports.

à The Rural Police was set up

At the level of the municipalities and towns which have local prosecutor's offices, there have been set up rural police structures that include more offices and communal police stations. The Ministry of Administration and Interior will acquire 5,000 automobiles during next year, which will endow the communal police stations.

à The "112" telephone call – a response within 10 minutes

There have been improved the conception of action for the intervention to the events notified through the unique emergency telephone call 112 – focused today round the principle "*the policeman who is closest to the event place takes action*". The response time is currently of 10-15 minutes.

à The Local Police Project

The Ministry of Administration and Interior finalised the project of the setting up of the Local Police, which will soon be forwarded, in order to be approved, to Parliament. This project provides the establishment, in the residence municipalities of the countries, of some local police stations subordinated to the mayors, with attributions in ensuring the public order and observance of the road-traffic regulations, as well as in the fields of discipline in constructions, environment protection and commerce. In line with this, in five pilot-municipalities (Pitesti, Cluj-Napoca, Oradea, Ploiesti și Bacau) local police structures have been established this year.

V. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFORM

à Continuing the process of decentralisation and enhancement of the administrative capacity

There was set up the inter-ministerial framework for developing the sectoral strategies for decentralisation: the Technical inter-ministerial committee for decentralization and work groups in seven ministries.

The national programme for trainers' forming in the local public finances was developed.

The deconcentrated services for issuing passports, driving licenses and registration certificates were set up and made operational.

There was implemented a specialised training programme for the members of UCRAP and the "National modernising network"; new modern management instruments within the public institutions were also implemented.

à Improving of the general interest services

There was drawn up the legislative packet regarding the communal services in public units (the law regarding the communal services of public utilities, the law regarding the water supply and sewage services, the law regarding the public lighting services, the law regarding the local public transport means, the law regarding the cleaning of localities); the draft laws are currently under Parliament's debate.

At the same time, this year has been drawn up the "Strategy for developing the municipality services", which provides that specific strategies have to be drawn up by each local public authority.

à As regards the **public function reform**, the following actions were taken:

- Drawing up and disseminating some instruments meant to modernise the human resources management at the local and central level (e.g. the guide regarding the methods of planning the human resources, the guide regarding the analysis of the training requirements)

- The implementation of the evaluation methodology regarding the positions at the local and central level in ten pilot institutions within the local and central administration
- Making the electronic database for public functions and public servants operational; the database will provide complete information regarding the professional career of public servants, allowing the dynamics and structure of the public servant's body to be exactly evaluated
- Beginning with May 2005, the National Agency of Public Servants organises different contests at the inter-county level for the public authorities within the local public administration, imposing some standard requirements for occupying a similar public position.
- Finalising the first series of the “Young Professional Scheme” programme.
- Developing some specialized training programmes for the high public servants, prefects and leading public servants.

à Development programmes for local communities amounting to over 200 million euros

There were developed the following programmes:

- “Rural development programme”, amounting to 53 million USD, implemented in 103 communes within five counties;
- “The funds for modernising of local public administration”, amounting to 7.2 million euros (out of which 4.8 million euros through PHARE programme), implemented in 374 localities;
- The programme meant to provide new technical equipment for the centralised systems of heating producing and distribution, amounting to 70 million euros (1/3 out of the total subsidiaries allotted in 2005, from the state budget, for heating), implemented in 62 localities;
- SAMTID Programme, 1st stage, amounting to 40 million euros, implemented in five counties; the major shortcomings and the delayed projects recorded up to the beginning of the year were fully remedied;
- The contracting procedures for the SAMTID Programme, 2nd stage, amounting to 56 million euros, that will be implemented in other five counties.

à A package of laws for a modernised administration

The latest achievement of MAI in the field of administration is represented by the launching of the package of draft laws regarding public administration reform to public debates. The five draft laws included in this package are the following ones:

- Draft Law regarding the amending and supplementing of the Law No.215/2001 concerning Local public administration
- Draft Law regarding the amending and supplementing of the Law No.188/1999 concerning the Statute of public servants
- Draft Law regarding the amending and supplementing of the Law No.340/2004 concerning the prefect's institution
- Framing Draft Law of decentralisation
- Draft Law regarding the local public finances

The reform measures provided in these documents aim at:

- Enhancing the local authority (reducing the possibility of interferences exercised by the central administration and manifested through an break in the relation prefect – secretary at the level of the administrative-territorial unit, strengthening the mayors' attributions and decentralisation of the public function management)
- Removing the political interference in administration (through reforming the prefect's function, the high public servants' category, as well as the system of funds distribution in view of balancing the local budgets)

- Improving the coherence and speeding up the general process of decentralisation (by setting up some clear principles and rules, as well as a special institutional framework)
- Enhancing the effectiveness in the local public administration (by the reform of the public function and different instruments for improving the efficiency of the local public authorities' organisation and functioning)
- Enhancing the administrative capacity (by stimulating the statutory inter-community association)
- Raising professionalism in the public administration (by strengthening the public function and placing it outside the political influence)

à Unitary salary system for public servants

There were started the procedures for creating a unitary salary system for public servants. In October the contract with the qualified company was signed, in view of a comparative study regarding the salary in the public and private sectors in Romania, the activity itself having to commence on November 1, 2005; simultaneously, the National Agency of Public Servants is developing the procedures of contracting technical assistance for the drawing up of the specific legislation and of the strategy of implementing the unitary salary system for public servants.

ⁱ Ministry of Administration and Interior has accredited so far 17 home affairs attachés and 9 deputy home affairs attachés with the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Germany, Italy, France, Netherlands, Czech, Greece, Great Britain, Spain, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Republic of Moldova and Turkey, as well as with the European Union, EUROPOL and NATO. MAI intends to extend this system by accrediting seven more home affairs attachés over the next year with Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Portugal, Ireland, Finland and Denmark. Other eight home affairs attachés will be accredited with Cyprus, Latvia and Lithuania, United States of America, Georgia, Azerbaijan, China, Armenia and the Russian Federation. Also in 2007, The Ministry of Administration and Interior will accredit a councillor in the civil police field with the United Nations Department for Peace-Keeping Missions (DPKO) from New York and a liaison officer with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), based in Vienna.

ⁱⁱ The Romanian Gendarmerie personnel increased by 4,175 cadres out of whom : 2,207 from external source, 213 university graduates and 1,755 professionalisation. For December 2005, 797 vacancies remained to be filled.